

SECRET

SCAM-3720

JAN 7 1954

: Senior Representative, []
ATTN: []
: C/SE

- OSOPUS
- Aziz Bicaku Operation

Reference: SCAM-7396

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Headquarters appreciates the work that the Albanian Branch in [] is putting into the various reviews of the APPLE Team operation and we are looking forward to reading them when they are completed.

2. With regard to the point raised in paragraph 2 of the reference, namely the question of our thinking last July when we rejected the proposal to seek information about APPLE/2 through Aziz Bicaku and his Yugoslav contacts, a search of the files fails to reveal any document setting forth the field's views as stated in the reference. We refer to the statement that "RECASTING would go ahead" and that we had more to gain by controlling the operation than by standing aside.

3. Setting this point aside, there is no background to add to the statement of headquarters' views made in the cable exchanges of last July. We still tend to feel, moreover, that by involving KUBARK in this project we would have taken unjustified security risks. In our view the Turks and the Yugoslavs, not to mention the Albanian I.S., are probably fully informed about Yusup Bicaku's trip to Yugoslavia. We are possibly unduly suspicious, but feel that there is at least a possibility that the information acquired by Yusup Bicaku and later clarified by Azmi Bey Ohrida was a deliberate provocation by the Albanian I.S. aimed at lulling KUBARK into accepting the fact that APPLE/2 was not under control. This suspicion is strengthened if one reads APPLE in Message No. 80 together with [] 663, para 6 while making the assumption (now apparently confirmed by Radio Tirana) that APPLE was under control at the time that Message No. 80 was filed.

Athens: 3
SE-1/ [] /671/ym/4 Jan
[] , C/SE

Chief, SE

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Dist: RI
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